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Choice Poetry.

BLESSED BE GOD FOR FLOWERS.

The author of this sweet poem is, we are informed, Mr. C. Tinsley. It was suggested by seeing a lady fondly with flowers in in hand.

Blessed be God for flowers!
Bright, gentle, holy thoughts that breathe
And their odorous beauty, like a wreath
Of sweetness on his brow!

Lightly upon thine eye
Falls the noonside sleep, nor seems bold;
Through the parted tape the bloom, rance kissed,
Comes, like a summer sigh.

"Breathe death into the World
And all our woe!"

That serpent must be Clinton, that Lucifer, that son of the morning, that seeming angel of light. Thus, in the excitement of his anger, he fashioned the tempter, which, after all, might be innocent of all guile, and free from all transgression.

Crushing the papers in his hand, he saw a line which had escaped his eye before. It was this:

"I cannot tell you where to address me, as we are now on the wing. I shall write again soon."

"So he places himself beyond the reach of admonition and remedy," thought Mr. Gleason. "Oh! Louis, had your mother lived, how would her heart have been wrung by the knowledge of your aberration from rectitude! And how will the kind and noble soul who fills that one's place in our affections and home, mourn over her wood, and degenerate boy!"

Yes! she did mourn, but not without hope. She had too much faith in God and his word not to believe him capable of deliberate transgression. She knew his ardent temperament, his restless spirit, and did not think it strange that he should be led into temptation. He must not be condemned, unheard, when he had been once betrayed. Neither would she suffer an dark a cloud of suspicion to rest upon Clinton. It was unjust to suppose that he was not surrounded by so many young, and doubtless, evil companions. He regretted Louis's subjection among them, since it had had so unhappy an influence on Mittie, but it was cowardly to condemn a friend face to face, and then show face their hospitable smiles had so lately beamed. If he had done so, he was but a small property of his own. She insisted upon drawing on this for the amount necessary to settle the bills of Louis. She had reserved it for the children's use, and perhaps when Louis was reduced to his last resource, and assistance came, he would blush for the drain, and shame would restrain him from these base indulgences. Mr. Gleason was not easily believed. The cloud lighted up, and if it did not entirely pass away, glimpses of steadfast were soon breaking through.

And this was the woman whom Mittie disdained to honor with the title of mother!

Helen had recovered from the double shock of the unlooked-for sight and sudden news of departure, but she was not the same Helen that she was before. Her childhood was gone. The future lay before her, and although it had its soft, genial sunshine, but tears upon by the sternest realities. Her heart was pierced and rent Arthur Hazleton with the innocent fondness which had made their intercourse so delightful. If he took back all that he implied and withdrew it. If also not his eye she blushed, and turned away her glance—that eye, which though it flashed not with the fires of passion, had such depth, and strength, and intensity in its expression, that her susceptible soul was contagious, and constraint and reserve took the place of confidence and happiness. Now, like the semi-transparent drapery over a beautiful picture, which suffers the lineaments to be traced, while it veils the splendor and brightness of life are chilled and obscured.

The contrast was so sudden and strange as if they were the inmates of different abodes. Mrs. Gleason had prepared a room for Helen adjoining her own, that she might be near her charge as far as possible from Mittie's dagger tongue. Thus Helen was left to the stillness of the second, and which no one seemed disposed to disturb. She remained the most of her time in her own room, where the family gathered for a social tea table, where she appeared more like a stranger than a member of a home. She seemed to take no interest in anything around her, nor did she seek to inspire any. She looked pale and frightened. Clinton's sojourn shade dimmed the brilliancy of her dazzling eyes.

"You look pale, my daughter," her father would sometimes say. "I fear you are not well."

"I am perfectly well," she would answer, with a shudder at the cold and distant, sympathy was at once repelled.

"Will you not sit with us?" Mrs. Gleason would frequently ask, as she looked fondly upon the blessing grace of his manners, he could recall a thousand reminiscences which had powerfully made an impression on his mind. He blessed himself for the choice of his wife, and for such close intimacy with one, of whose parentage and early history he knew nothing. He blessed Providence for permitting his daughter such unrestricted intercourse with a young man whose principles were fixed, whose character was pure, for consenting to the departure of Louis with a companion, in whose principles he had confidence, and who would not leave Louis to the mercy of the world, and to his own heavy doubts. Why had he suffered this thought to steal around the household in such and shining coils, increasing himself more and deeper into the heart, and binding the affections with a cord which could not break, and the will that might resist his sorcery?

The blended one moment for his weakness, the cloud shrouded himself for the harshness of his reproof, and he was overwhelmed with his own sins. The first letter which he received from Louis, did not recount the temptations to which Clinton had changed his place. He did not intend to return immediately to Virginia, but would visit some of the principal cities of the North before he had neglected for the charming home which he had left behind. He was overwhelmed with gratitude on the advantages of travelling with such a companion, of the fine opportunity he had of seeing something of the world, and of making the student's monotonous and secluded life more full and interesting. Mr. Gleason's heart, contracted at college, of whose existence the father was perfectly unconscious. Louis's letter had been written in the morning, most interested in expression, and the sunlight established in its place. Louis, Louis, you should have said *dated* your letter before the departure. Its writer himself upon the indulgence of a parent, he knew would be so ready to pardon the slight omission, and the sunlight streamed through the which youth was exposed, when deprived of parental guidance.

The letter dropped from Mr. Gleason's hand. dact stood gathered on his brow. A sharp pain darted through his heart. His son, his intelligent, noble, high-minded boy had deceived him—betrayed his confidence, and wasted, with the recklessness of a spendthrift, money to which he had no legitimate claims.

When Louis entered college, and during the whole course of his education there, Mr. Gleason had designed his accuracy expenses, and supplied him liberally with spending money.

"Keep out of debt, my son," was his constant advice. "In every unexpected emergency apply to me. Debt unnecessarily incurred is both dishonorable and disgraceful. When a boy contracts debts unknown to his parents, they are associated with shame and sin. Beware of temptation."

Mr. Gleason was not rich. He was engaged in merchandise, and had at his command sufficient for the support of his family, sufficient to supply every want, and gratify every wish within the bounds of reason; but he had nothing to throw away, nothing to scatter broad-cast beneath the plough-share of ruin. He did not believe that his Louis had fallen into disobedience and error without a guide in sin. Like Eve, he had been beguiled by a serpent, and he had eaten of the fruit of the tree of forbidden knowledge, whose taste

"Brought death into the World
And all our woe!"

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gloom of his brow, and the inquietude of his eye betrayed the anxiety and grief reaking within.

Helen knew not the contents of her brother's letter, nor the secret cause of grief that preyed on her father's mind, but his silence and silence were trials ever which she openly and daily mourned with deep and increasing sorrow.

"We shall hear from him to-morrow. He will come to-morrow." This was the nightly lullaby to her disappointed and murmuring heart.

Mittie likewise repeated to herself the same refrain. "He will come to-morrow. He will write to-morrow." But it was not of Louis that the prophecy was breathed. It was of another, who had long since left her daylight.

Helen had not forgotten her old friend Miss Thusa, whom the rigors of winter rendered more closely then ever to her lonely cabin. Almost every day she visited her, and every day the evening found them seated with book and visitor hung from the trees, there was a path through the woods, printed with any footsteps, that showed where Helen had walked. Mr. Glen son supplied the solitary spinster with wood ready cut for the hearth, but her cottage had all with dark red tar, and furnished her with many comforts and luxuries. He never forget her devoted attachment to his dead wife, who had commended to his care and kindness the orphan child, whose birth on her lying-in bed. Gleason frequently accompanied Helen in her visits, and as Miss Thusa did, "drew a chair with full hands and left a full heart behind her." Helen sometimes playfully asked her to tell her the story of her shortcomings, but she could not put her off with a shake of the head, saying—"she should hear it by and bye, when the right time was at hand."

"But when is the right time, Miss Thusa?" asked Helen. "I begin to think it is to-morrow."

"To-morrow never comes," replied Miss Thusa, solemnly, "but death does. When his footsteps cross the old stile and tramp over the rocks in the stone stream, I'll tell you about the ancient manchee. It won't do any good till then, and you are too young yet. I feel better than I did in Autumn, and may last longer than I thought I should—but, perhaps, when the ground shows in the Spring the old tree will loosen and fall—or break off suddenly near the root. I have seen such things in my day."

"Oh! Miss Thusa," said Helen, "I never want to hear anything about it, if its history is to be such as to indeed I do not."

"Only if you should marry, child, before I die," continued Miss Thusa, smartly, "you shall know then. It is not very probable that such will be the case; but it is astonishing how people will change their minds in a couple of days."

"It will be a long time before I shall think of marrying, Miss Thusa," answered Helen, laughing. "I believe I will live as you do, in a cottage of my own, with my book for company and familiar friend."

"It is not such as you that are born to live alone," said the spinster, passing her hand lovingly over Helen's fair, warm cheek. "You are one that was made to be loved, and must have one upon. No, no—don't talk in that way. I don't mean married. It don't come from the heart. Now I was made to be by myself. I don't understand it myself, but I was born with—much less all the days of my life. They may say this is sour grapes, and call me an old maid, but I don't care for that. I have lived my own way, and I know it is a strange one, and that is why I never could have found any body to have his. You laugh, child. I hope you will never find it out to your cost. But you haven't any will of your own; so it will be all as it should be, after all."

"What makes your cheeks redden so, and your heart flutter like a bird caught in a snare?" said the spinster, looking thoughtfully, almost sorrowfully into Helen's soft, loving, hazel eyes. "*That step* doesn't come up the hard walk—but I'll tell you about it. You know it is an array of tea thereand."

The door opened and Arthur Hazleton entered. The day was cold, and a comfortable fire blazed in the chimney. The fire-beams that played around Helen's glowing cheeks might account for its burning rose, for it even-tasting words. I leave you in the society of father or mother, brother or sister—without any one to love or have you. Last night I had a dream, and you know God's will was there known in dreams, to holy men of old. There seems in my dream, an aged man, with a beard as white as ermine, that hung down like a banner over his breast, with a wand in his right hand, and stood beside my bed.

"'Hear me words,' he exclaimed, in a solemn voice, 'and tell them to the sons. What you are dead and gone, let him gird himself for a long pilgrimage. If he was here, he will be tempted into a terrible desert. Bruin from it every thorn, he must travel through the world till he finds a young maiden's warm, loving heart—and the maiden must be his and good, and be willing to let the hide enter her bosom, and her heart be taken from loving home. And then he must travel further still, till a white dove shall come from the East, and fold its wings on his breast. If you would save your kingdom and your son, command him to do this. It is the will of the Most High.'

"The old man departed, but his words remained like thunder in my ears. *Obey him*, my son, the vision came from above.

"The young Prince saw his father laid in the tomb, then prepared himself for his pilgrimage. He did not like the idea of being buried with snakes, neither did he like the thought of taking the heart of a young and innocent maiden, if he should find one willing to make the sacrifice, which he did not believe. The Prince had a bright eye and a light step, and he was crossed in brave attire, and had his sword girded out of the windows as he passed along, and the young men sighed with envy. He came to a great palace, and heard a King's song, he thought he had a right to enter it; and there he saw a beautiful, beautiful lady, all shining with diamonds and pearls. There was a great feast waiting in the hall, and she asked him to stay, but he passed the feast by and drank, and gave him many glasses of wine, as red as rubies. After he had eaten and drank, and had been pressed, he did it, he begged for her heart, the heart glistening in his eyes for sorrow. She smiled, and said that it was the heart of a dove, with a sinking hand he took a knife, and aimed it at her bosom, she screamed, and fainted out of the hall, as if the evil one was behind her—Don't interrupt me, child,—don't—I shall forget what I'm telling. The Prince went on his way, thinking the old man had sent him on the fools errand—but he found a young Queen dead father, saving he was a King. It would take me from sea to sea to tell of all the places and things he saw and heard. At last he got very tired and sorrowful, and sat down by the wayside and wept, thinking he would rather turn to marble at once, than live by such a terrible reward. He saw a little robin close by, but he had hardly strength to reach it, and he thought he would stay there and do.

"What makes you weep?" said a voice so sweet he thought it was music itself, and looking up, he saw a young maiden, who had come up a path behind him, with a pitcher of water on her head. She was beautiful and she to speak. She offered him water to drink, and told him if he would go with her to the little cabin, her mother would give him something to eat, and a bed to lie upon, for the night-dew was beginning to fall. He had not on his fine dress at this time, having changed it for that of a young peasant, thinking perhaps he would succeed better in disguise. So he followed her steps, and they gave him milk, and bread, and honey, and a nice bed to sleep upon, though it was of leaves thousand. And there he lay till sick, and they nursed him day after day, and brought him back to health. The young maiden grew more lovely in his eyes, and her voice sounded more and more sweet to his ear. Sometimes he thought of the sacrifice he was to ask, but he could not do it. No, he would die first. One day she sat down with the long, white bead cane, in his dream, to his bedside. He looked dark and frowning.

"'This is the maiden,' he cried, 'your pilgrimage is ended here. Do as then act bolden, and then I must wait.'

"When the morning came, he was pale and sad, and the young girl was pale and sad from sympathy. Then the Prince knelt down at her feet, and told her the history of his father's dream and his own, and of his careening grief and bitter sorrow. He wept, but the maiden smiled, and she looked like an angel with that sweet smile on her face.

"'My heart is yours,' she said, 'I give it freely and cheerfully. Drain from it every drop of blood, if you will—I care not, so it save you from perishing.'

"Then the eyes of the young Prince shone out like the sun after a storm, and drawing his dagger from his bosom, he—

"Stop, Miss Thusa—don't go on," interrupted Helen, pale with emotion. "I cannot bear to hear it. It is too awful. I asked you for something beautiful, and you have chosen the most terrible theme. Don't finish it."

"Is there not something beautiful," said the spinster, looking down, and addressing herself her in a low voice—"is there not something beautiful in such pure and self-sacrificing love? I have stored it away in my heart that thrills responsive as you listen! Oh, Helen—I am sure you could devote yourself for one you loved."

"Oh, yes!" she answered, forgetting, in her excitement, all her natural timidity. "I could do it joyfully, gladly! Death from it every drop of blood, if you will—I care not, so it save you from perishing."

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"Then saying he departed, but strange to tell, as he was speaking, his face was all the time growing younger and fairer, his white beard gradually disappeared, and as he went through the door, a pair of white wings, tipped with gold, began to flutter on his shoulders. Then they knew it was the angel that had been with them, and they bowed themselves down to the floor and trembled. In three days more of my telling you, that the Prince married the maiden, and lived happily ever after."

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"Thank you," said Helen, "I know the world not refuse. Now please tell us some thing gentle and beautiful—something that will make us better and happier. Idiocie, you have never appear till darkness comes. The angels do."

Miss Thusa sat looking into the fire, with a musing, dreamy expression, or rather on the ashes, which formed a gray bed around the burning coals. Her thoughts were, however, evidently wandering inward, through the dim streets and shadowy aisles of that Herculaneum of the soul—memory.

Arthur laid his hand with an admonishing motion on Helen, whose lips parted to speak, and the trio sat in silence for a few moments,

Our Picture Gallery.

THE VIVANDIERE AT PARIS.

This is a characteristic sketch of a vivandiere of the National Guards in the streets of Paris, with a fair *Vivandière*, or outler, that is, a female who follows the troops, and provides them with refreshment. The *Vivandière* and the young officer are foremost in the picture: but there are other characters—as the young *garde*, already feeling the heat of service; another more at ease, with his *tabatière*; and a "dandy" installed on his divan, and, as far as can be seen, enjoying his meal. The cavalry officer, the guns, and the spectators in the balcony are good accessories, and the whole is a scene of actual life. These vivandieres are, we believe, often quite pretty and pure-minded girls.

Pictures of Life.

SOCIETY IN ITALY.

FROM CHAMBER'S EDINBURGH JOURNAL.

Two or three years ago, I enjoyed an opportunity, which rarely falls to the lot of strangers, of becoming acquainted with the domestic habits and manners of Italy. An invitation from my uncle, an English merchant of Ancona, to spend a few months there with his family, was gladly accepted. My experience of Italy consisted of a gay Winter in Florence and the early Spring days at Rome, and I was still young and enthusiastic enough to accept with delight any proposal which tended to increase my acquaintance with the country that had so much enchanted me. It was therefore with a light heart that I found myself, one lovely autumnal morning, the fortnight after my visit to Rome before I had time to quit in Florence to the care of an English lady, who, with her two daughters, was going to Ancona, in order to embark from thence for Smyrna, where her husband was established.

About ten, we reached Forli, the first of three large, deserted, decaying cities which are to be met with at every fifteen or twenty miles distance in the Roman States, and which, in their grass-grown streets, their ruined palaces and ragged, idle population, give a more striking testimony to the workings of the dominant system, than the most heart-sickening spectacle could achieve. Anger sauntered through the dreary town, in which many the houses were closed, and all those were the rising generation—the gentry and nobility of Forli. I say one of the calculationally, because another, who had come out to us near the theatre, was occupied solely in the contemplation of a dilapidated wall, crowned by any of the citizens. Priests, soldiers, and beggars struggled about the streets, the last besieging chiefly the cafés and church doors, and exhibiting their withered limbs and disfigured faces as an incentive to the compassion of the charitably disposed. Near the chief square, and evidently the fashionable locality, was a handsome modern building, the front of a bakery, in a threadless livery-coat hanging down to his heels, with a faded gold band round his hat, and altogether with such an air of dignity and importance as rendered the office of examining traditional dignity pitifully ridiculous. The only public building that looked flourishing or in good repair was the theatre, which subsequent observations have shown me to be the case in most, if not all of the towns in Papal States. At Cesena, for instance, which was our next halting-place, a new opera-house, apparently just completed, was shown to us, as the creation of which the municipality—of course with the approbation of the Government at Rome—had expended a very large sum; while the town bore the semblance of a vast hospital, in its neglected, ruinous, and filthy state of human wretchedness, lying bedridden together by night beneath a miserable cover, and by day shocking every sense by the display of their wounds, sad-sickness, and suffering.

But I was digressing, and must return to Forli, and to our hotel of La Posta, where we dined in a very large hall that must have been a banqueting-room centuries ago. Our places were laid at one end of a long table, the other extremity of which was soon occupied by several white-coated Austrian infantry officers, belonging to a regiment which had been for some months before had entered Romagna. They came in clanking their swords, and speaking in a loud, unrebuking tone, evidently being in the habit of frequenting the house, to judge by the manner in which the waiters hurried to attend themselves. They were fortunately too far off for us to be annoyed by overhearing their conversation, except when they raised their voices to chase the waiters, which they did in consequence of the latter's inattention to their orders. These remarks were generally premised with, "Voi pezzo d'Italiano," or something equally complimentary, and were loud and lasting. But this was nothing to what occurred about the middle of the repast, when a party of Italians, two ladies and a gentleman, evidently of the upper class, one fellow-traveller at the mountain-inn, entered and sat down opposite to us, waiting till their dinner should be brought, for each party was separately served.

Though they spoke low, and with an evident desire to avoid notice, the unaccustomed ear detected to what nation they belonged, as I listened by their whispering and gesticulating amongst themselves, and frequent bold glances towards the new-comers. After a little time their mirth grew more effusive; and, under the unwarrantable height, when one of the party proposed a toast, which, though addressed to the whole room, was so tragically denounced, and said him if he could tell him in what light he was! "Thank you," answered the Italian, in a low, sad tone. "I am neither chest, grave a shade paler, but he spoke no reply, as he turned to his companions, and called for coffee and cigars."

I cannot describe what I felt during this scene for the cruel outrage on the feelings of the family who sat opposite to us. When the Italians were palpably provoked with our behavior, the brow of the gentleman grew dark and lowering, and I saw by the strong beatings of the chest, and heavy compression of the lips, that he, unarming struggles were at work. The ladies exchanged glances—that of pity for one of the two who sat beside him, and who, I afterwards discovered to be his wife, and her hand upon his arm, and looked into his face with a fondness. I never shall forget the look—indignation, scorn, and contempt, but all very quiet, and there. He shrank from her touch, as if irritated at a movement that might call further attention to his position; but the indignation, instead of growing to resolute himself, he whispered a few words into her ear, accompanied by a look with a slight movement of the shoulders, with which an Italian always indicates helplessness or despair.

As I am not going to give a journal of our stay, I must hurry over many events that could scarcely seem idea of the state of the country which we traversed, I shall hasten over the two following days. We passed through Rimini, La Cattolica, Pesaro, Fano, Sinigaglia —all names which once belonged to history, but now may be briefly classed in the same category of ruin and debasement—and found ourselves, at the close of the fourth day, in sight of the place of our destination—Ancona, the third city in the Roman States.

On we went through a handsome gate, where the usual formalities of passports had to be endured: and then along a sunny road of esplanade, with the sea on one side and dirty houses on the other; and through a low narrow archway in a huge blank wall, and we were fairly in Ancona, the Doric city, as it is admiringly called by its inhabitants, "the everything else" country of its whip, the horses did their best to gallop, the dog barked, and we plunged out and joined through the steep narrow streets in right good style, till we drew up in front of the hotel of La Pace, the Venetian's of Ancona.

Our arrival apparently had been expected, for the door was half-naked, black-haired porters *et fundone*, who had acted as our running-footmen from the gate, now shouted, as soon as they came within hearing, that the hôtels del Signor Carlo was come; and instantly there was a rush made by some hurrahs were issuing before the inn in the direction opposite. Meanwhile, a bevy of waiters flung open the door, and with many bows saluted the slight, graceful Signor Carlo had apprised them we were coming, and that rooms were ready for the lady and her daughters. By this, I began to comprehend that Signor Carlo must mean my uncle, Mr. Charles B——, whom I was not prepared to hear so unceremoniously designated at once, but before I had time to further on this peculiarity, the person in question made his appearance, attended by a numerous staff of small boys and porters, who at once broke out in furious alternation with those they knew and were entitled to our service. My uncle seemed perfectly at his ease amidst this uproar, tucked my arm under his, saw my boxes safe on the shoulders of three or four lusty, strong-limbed *facchini*, stamped and waved at once of the most refractory, and then observing we should be late for dinner, and that my cousins were impatient to see me, hurried me up the most beautiful ascent—a valley of steps, in fact, strewed with monkish cenotaphs, and with a church at the top, which is not a scene of scarcely wider dimensions, with lofty dingy houses on each side, that seemed nothing materials except color, and crowned by a pleasant scene of suffocation. My uncle told me, somewhat coldly, that this was quite the Venice of Ancona, where some of the first families resided. The Palazzo, of which he rented a large suite, was amongst the best, and the entrance, a large court with arcades, and a broad stone staircase, carried me back to my visit to one of Italian splendor. My cousins came running down to receive me, followed by the servants, all of whom I was introduced in due form by his master, and called me Excellenza.

It was only very rarely and occasionally that I was quite delighted with the appearance of the house, through the centre of which ran a spacious hall, with a floor of marble, and the walls were painted in *fresco* by Pellegrino Tibaldi, and the ceiling was divided into flats, and blazoned with the arms of the Farnese family, by one of whom the palace had been built nearly three centuries ago. The rest of the house, in strange contrast with its stately appearance, was a large dingy one-piece. Dust lay in the folds of my silk trunks, pictures, and other indications of female occupancy and accomplishment. It was like a flourishing plant transplanted to this distant land, and as much a flourishing or in good repair was the domestic appearance, and manners of the family amongst whom I found myself, that in the room before that dreadful day on children are to be seen, and that great source of all evil, a fresh birth I hear of. I say in myself—well, the seven years at least have not begun yet!"

In the ladies of course, while there were two sons or two exceptions, being all participators in this wholesome dread of retired walks, and the relentless likely to be induced thereby. Every day their time in the manner I have described, with the aid of a lady-maid or two, and a valet-de-say all place, such genuine feeling and enthusiasm, such elegant gift, is usually found by what spell so strong a veneration for the canon fisherland had been infused into their very blood, I was at first unable to discover; but, on the contrary, I found that the Italian circle, and apparently looked upon with sincere respect and esteem by all of whom it was composed.

The next and following days, several ladies, acquaintances of the family, came to call upon me, in the evenings most of the gentlemen came to pay their respects in form to the new comer so that, aided by a few hints from my cousins, I had soon quite *au fait* as to the leading facts and characteristics of my uncle's circumstances.

What struck me most at first, was their evening entertainments, which were held in the hall, before seen such courtesies and bows exchanged, or could have deemed it possible that so many persons could have been collected together, addressed, or address each other as unceasingly as they did on the present occasion. The reason was by whom I was surrounded. Then the ordinary rules of etiquette was laughable in the extreme; and I could not help, at the second thing, that the mistress of the house, on the occasion of her own evening, should not rest on account of some fashionable novelties in my wardrobe. One lady took up my dress, another that, and examining attentively as to the fashion of the material, it would be strangely misapplied. They do not know of the existence of such a thing as that must be satisfied here of more importance than the cut, and that the hands of a new gown should never be worn in the first evening of its existence. I found out afterwards this was meant to be a great compliment to my taste, and that the hands of a new gown are worn in the manner was looked upon as an inestimable benefit.

The conversation did not seem very brilliant, though I was told it was the most intellectual society at the best! I think it may be better than it has been or can be to me in the future, for by no means so invariably as in former generations. When such a party had retired, it was not apparently resumed or commenced upon by the others, but excepted as a matter of course, and in a preceding whose harangy it would have been invidious to disturb. The cardinal virtues of Italian society were patience, however, to chocolate and the bullet, as old italics, to commemorate the fashionable amusement offer his opinion on some new dress or piece of furniture, and then retire to his own room, perhaps accompany the husband to the stable, to discuss the merits of a new horse or set of harness.

I was told of one old lady who had entered into a contract with her son-in-law to live with the same homage by her veteran cavaliers as she had imperiously exacted some forty winters before. All her contemporaries had died off themselves, and he was the last that remained of the domestic wonders which had so long haunted the house. And so they used to sit in the evening opposite each other, a harp with a dark shade of flowing an uncertain light upon their time seem soon and faded hangings—both haggard, feeble, and helpless, and generally at each other, striking little catchers baskets filled with the fruits of the season, or the evening's hands: yet still, from force of habit, keeping up this semblance of conversation till eleven o'clock, when the old woman, who used to watch him, and wrapping him in a large cloak, led him carefully to his own room.

Happily, we did not have regular conversations of my uncle's: as he was a widower, and my cousins unmarried, it would not have been thought correct. We used only to have occasional visits in the evening, or else retired the people regularly to see—which, though never appearing at their own houses, they yet fully appreciated at ours—and played what, and had a little music, and did our best to amuse them —and which, on the whole, was a more pleasant and rational way of spending an evening, than that of sitting down to a late dinner with a sham appetite and pretty much sham ceremony and make-believe enjoyment.

Original Letters.

LETTERS FROM EUROPE.

BY GRACE GREENWOOD.

[Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 18, by Jesse R. Peterson, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.]

NO. IV.

PARIS, Sunday, April 22, 1855.

It is Easter Sunday—a glorious night, most memorable day to look back upon and strive to chronicle, while yet under the spell of its supernatural and beautiful influences. I have seen Hereulaneum and Pompeii since the month's beginning. The excavations at the former place are almost entirely discontinued, and many houses have been filled up, or walled up, for the safety of the town—all those, indeed, which we saw. We revisited the object of greatest interest at present, the theatre. This is wholly under ground—you descend into it, as into the pit of a tragic darkness, run search of the way in the midst laves, lizards and bats. Here you are not filled with the same volcanic matter—the fire was checked by a seething rain of ashes, while the theatre was sheltered by a portion of the molten rock, which came surging in upon, and pushed high in the arched, and into the houses as though they were mortals, and hard cased those into an iron-like solidity. Even in the dungeon, there are grey shocks and coloured tufts of fair peopled, fairy-fluted, bringing back to the mind's eye the terrible reality of the tremendous tragedy of a city's destruction and entombment. Yet those black, granite-like masses are the gloomy fortunes of the theatre itself, lit alone by the feeble gleaming of our lingering, as a reluctant day, for the mind to picture the scene as it once was—gay with lights and music, crowded with the flower and pallid loveliness of Herculaneum, filled with emotion, the stage alive with actors, and every part of the vast building, from the orchestra seats, the side and summer of quiet applause, or the hard hunt of acclamation. It was a strange, solemn thing to walk across the stage, and into the green-room, and dressing-rooms of the actors. I never had scraped a sensation in any religious edifice, ruined or entire, as in this ancient temple of pleasure. In one of the passages leading off the stage, there is shown overhead, the perfect impression in lava, of a corpse, which had been found lying up there on the swelling flood. This is one of the most suggestive objects yet beheld here. You cannot look at it without thinking of the misery there when its appearance must have been hailed with hopeful gladness. Fancy, though through those now dark and tomb-like vaults.

The immense difficulty of excavating here, the limited number of operatives, and the long, possibly of carrying them away further with out great to the city—all render it likely that the most of Herculaneum as useful vigneron, a strange, profound, overwhelming mystery. The theatre is very large, and must have been a magnificent edifice. Its best sculptures and frescoes have been removed to the Museum at Naples, but enough remains to show that it was built and ornamented with much richness and taste. But the few beautiful objects seemed to take nothing from the general effect of gloom and terror, and never did the sun shine so red and the warm sunshine seem so delicious and radiant to me, as when I emerged from that chill, sepulchral place.

For a mile or two before we reached Pompeii, we saw large fields of lava. Much of it is dead, desolate, looking like the entrance to the infernal regions, and yet showing could be brighter in the glassware than Pompeii itself, amid all its lonely desolation.

A thrill of wild, strange, inexpressible emotion shot through my heart the moment my feet struck on the old pavements, worn by the feet and the chariot-wheels of the ancient Pompeiians, and my eye followed the long street, the via appia, lined on either side with the tombs, the houses, the inns and the shops of nearly two thousand years ago.

We first visited the house of the rich citizen Diomed, which, after all that has been taken from it, I was engrossed to find so beautiful and complete. The upper and third story is gone, but by those which remain, you can trace clearly a handsome and luxurious establishment. We entered a portico by a flight of white marble steps, then passed into the court, which was in the form of a handsome and luxurious establishment. We entered a portico by a flight of white marble steps, then passed into the court, which was in the centre

SATURDAY EVENING POST.

PHILADELPHIA:
SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1853.

General News.

THE DISASTER FROM LIGHTNING AT LOCKPORT, N. Y.

The Lockport (Niagara county, N. Y.) Courier, of Monday week, has the following account of the disaster by lightning, mentioned in the Sunday postscript, to the Congregationalist Church, by which one man was killed, and six others severely injured:

The lightning struck the church steeple on South-West corner, passing down into the basement, where it struck the stove, and literally rent under the steeple, and all the persons present, by the shock were somewhat of the effect. They were about concluding an intermission hymn when the shock came, carrying with it terror and dismay into their midst. The scene of confusion which followed the gallery over the head of Mr. Crocker, who was killed, and six others severely injured as follows:

Every person in the gallery, numbering about forty or fifty, were more or less prostrated by the shock, but those that escaped were aided by those who were not injured in the assistance of the unfortunate. The whole scene was one of the most appalling character, and bodies burned, making them present the appearance of death. Those all assisted as soon as possible to the open air, and the presence of mind of the minister, Rev. Mr. Hurlbut, Fassett and Gold, who, providentially, were in the church at the time, which restored in a measure to consciousness all except Mr. Crocker, deceased. The scene of confusion, continued the least injury of any of the persons in the gallery, was indescribable. The lightning seems to have struck the steeple and passed down the stove, and in its course, down the stove pipe, tipping upon his head, and then to the floor, where it struck Mr. Crocker, and he died in very slight. He spoke once after Mr. Hurlbut, Mr. Fassett and Gold had seen him and Mr. Darbee, and not being injured, left the church. The lightning struck deceased said to him, "Help me, I am dying." Mr. Crocker was a member of the church but he only prayed once or twice, and then with a feeble voice. Messrs. Hurlbut, Gold, Fassett, and every means which medical skill could suggest, but all to no avail, and he died in a few minutes.

Dolmen was dressed on the face and body by the lightning, but not seriously. Her left hand was burned, and her person much shocked by the electric action, since the lightning upon his head. He was able to walk home after the shock. His wife was also very slight. He spoke once after the shock, and said that he was struck by lightning. Mr. Darbee, and not being injured, left the church. Mr. Darbee's wife was also struck, but not being injured said to him, "Help me, I am dying." Mr. Darbee's wife, though injured, but

Selected Poetry.

THE ELLE-MAID GAY.

The Ellen-maid, Wood-woman, is a German old, who in Suabe appears like a beautiful damsel, but soon from behind is hollow, like a mask. She is often found sitting by the fountain in the forest. In winter she wears a cap of straw and a kirtle; but whenever the golden glitter, immediately leaves it. Such damsels are not, however, peculiar to Germany.

Ridest by the woodland, Ludwig, Ludwig—
Ridest by the woodland grey?
Who sits in the woodland, Ludwig, Ludwig?
It is the Elle-maid gay.

A kiss on thy lip-lue, bridegroom Ludwig—
Thou as the dove of May.
Thank on thy corn love, brown-haired Ludwig,
And not on an Elle-maid gay.

She sits 'neath a linden, singing, singing,
Though her dropped lids nothing say!
But her beauty lures whether smiling or singing,
For she is an Elle-maid gay.

* * * * *

"Then hast drank of my wine-cup, Ludwig, Ludwig;
Then hast drank of my lips the day:
I am not more than thou thing, Ludwig,
Though I am an Elle-maid gay.

"Ride fast from the woodland, Ludwig, Ludwig—
Her laughter trucks his way—
Did'st thou think a fair woman, Ludwig, Ludwig,
And found her an Elle-maid gay?

* * * * *

"Fine—fine!" daily cry. "He is mad, young Ludwig;
He rode through the streets to-day
With his beard unshorn, and his cloak a-tore-tore;
He has seen the Elle-maid gay."

"I fear him not, my knight, my Ludwig,"
(The bride's dear lips did say),
"Though he comes from the woodland. He is my Ludwig;
He saw not the Elle-maid gay."

"Welcome, my lord—my love—my Ludwig!"—
But her smile grew pale as she met the eyes
As she knew by the glare of the mad eyes' stare
—She had met with the Elle-maid gay.

"God have thee—God pity thee, oh, my Ludwig!"
Nor her true sense turned to the grave
"There sat no more with the blanched weary Ludwig
But a fiend Elle-maid grey.

"I kiss thee I say thee—I, thy Ludwig!"
And the cruel fiended bright to the day;
"Some day a fond bride," laughed out Ludwig,
"Has a false Elle-maid gay.

"I kissed thee—I slew thee—I, thy Ludwig!
Now we will sport together!"
Still there were the Elle-maid gay.

Selected Sketch.

THE PANTHER SENTINELS.

Jessamy Count lived twenty miles West of Mobilton City. Old Black Diorite, as good a judge of negro property country has ever been found, out of Africa, that time means region back of Madison City. Old Black Diorite, as good a judge of negro as any human being, laid out in 1837, while cutting with him at Montrose, that the county styled "The fine and Fox Purchase," as the best land he ever saw, and he had but lately returned from his Government Tour through the United States, and, besides that, was fastened with the lay of land as far West as the Rocky Mountains. I bear testimony to the same fact, and will maintain it against all odds, that Iowa is the best farming country in the United States, and were it not so extremely cold in winter, my four children should be bundled themselves, cultivating and building, in hopes that some how pre-emption law would secure to them the rights acquired by the pioneer of the species. Among the rest who were engaged in this enterprise, were Uncle Bobby Rot, and his nephew, Jeremy Count.

I shall not weary the reader with an extended account of these worthies. Suffice it to say that such as form the staple of the stories of Longstreet and Hooper, and, would to God, the facetious writers have used the staple well.—Uncle Bobby was old and inconsequent, quarrelsome and independent. Marks of hard service in the cause of Bacchus, were upon all parts of his person, and those who knew him best, "old soul," in 1839, gave his fame in few words:—"Well, if this thing hasn't had more brains than any other human fix'd a machine."

His nephew, Jeremy Count, was raised up, very unfortunately, as an orphan, unfortunately for two reasons: that it is hard to raise the promising indolence of kind parents, and still harder to fall into such hands as those of Bobby Rot. But so it was,—the only education he ever got was the first beggings of old Bobby, the only work he ever did was to walk twice a week to Burlington, to fill old Bobby's jug, the only discipline exercised upon him was a hearty kick wherever he was gone too long, or broke the jug. With this brief sketch of character, I may prudently proceed with my story.—About the first of May, Bobby Rot had a "raising," and as raisin days of whisky was demanded.

Starting Jeremy on ahead with the jug, he followed after, having the keg strapped to his back, and his hearty ride on his shoulder, looking as much like a pointer as ever bird dog. Nobody knows looks like anything else. The precious fluid was duly purchased, and the steeple pair retraced their steps, Jeremy now on the lead, but elevated by a considerable portion of the contents—for my what you will of old Rot, he would not refuse to others the comfort that he took himself. The journey lay across several small prairies, and then entered a fine wood, ing through Skunk River Bottom, a dense thicket of cane, pagaw and other obstructive growth. The travellers left Burlington in good season to have arrived home by dark, but, unfortunately, the youth, not being accustomed to consuming his capacity for spirits, allowed himself to indulge too freely, and was compelled to stop for several hours in consequence, a proceeding that excited the wrath of the patriarch to an unlimited extent. Jeremy was the most offended at the delay, or at Jeremy's weakness, cannot at this late period be ascertained. Sunset overshadowed the prairies before the boy could be sufficiently aroused to proceed on the journey. Another hour was consumed in right earnest, for there was Egyptian darkness just as they entered the bottom. Not a moon was in the sky—it never is on a dark night when most wanted—and as for the stars, though there were thousands of them wishing over that beautiful prairie landscape, not one peep to enter through the dense and super tree into a sane thinker. The road was a mere pathway, sometimes traceable by an ox's gore, it is true,—not by such cues but such ranges as anybody ever saw except border settlers—but it never did run in a straight line, and tongue to match. Our ride in the bush made it the farthest one in its most literal interpretation—"where the tree falleth, there shall it lie"—and when one blows across the face, the quietly tried to get out of the way of the soon, and turn the road round it. It is true that a Dutchman once brought a wagon over our custom, by cutting a large tree out of the way, but we reasoned at him so much for his folly, that he never repeated it, and at the same time the principle has been universally acknowledged.

It follows, therefore, that Uncle Bobby Rot and his nephew, Jeremy Count, each tongue-cute in the way of travelling a barbarous world, nevertheless, find considerable difficulty in travelling through Skunk River Bottom in the dark: the more especially, as the keg on the one had one eye, and the nephew had exhausted both of his by the frequent visits to the jug before. The first catastrophe was the fall of Uncle Bobby over a swinging grape-vine, by which he broke his guardian off the second time was a flying visit of Jeremy down a sharp ravine, which, at the loss of the jug, left the third and last hearing the path and finding themselves completely out of them. The hearings these three following each other in close succession, and the last capping the climax of their misfortune. Out of breath at last, the elder withdrew the sob from his keg, and commenced to drown his sorrows as rapidly as possible by getting drunk, a feat he would have soon achieved had it not been for a certain sharp, ringing sound which thrilled through the forest, and caused him suddenly to drop the keg and spring to his feet. For a moment all was still, save the loud beating of two terrified hearts, and then arose a snuffing sound like the voice of many mosquitoes arying the their last bites, that chilled the very blood in their veins.

"It's a young one that's got lost," whispered Jeremy, to which his venerable guardian sternly replied:

"Young one! It's a painter!"

Another and another scream echoed through the woods, and, by their increasing loudness, soon taken that the animal was rapidly approaching them.

No time was to be lost if they would escape, but where could they go? to flee was impossible; one hound of the animal would settle that. Both looked around in the moonlight, as if to see where a tree was worthy their.

"Head out a hollow," cried the old man, and off he shot, the last of the four readers who have travelled on the upper Mississippi, have doubtless been struck with the wonderful size of the larger sycamores, that range from six feet to twenty in diameter. After they grow to a certain size, they are universally hollow, and that they furnish to the settlers convenient receptacles for grain, corks for wells, and with small trouble of earting and removing. Those cavities are usually open at the ground, and give the shelter of a house in winter, as well as wilder animals.—If indeed a wilder animal can be found in the world than an untamed boy.

Uncle Bobby knew those things well enough, and his wits at this crisis did not forsake him. In leaving the keg, prudence indeed, but not at precious as life, he commenced feeling around the base of the larger tree for a hole, slowly followed by the boy, who was in an alarming state of nervous apprehension. It was not long until they discovered in the moonlight, a hole, more aloof on the back of a small creek, that seemed to have expanded considerably into the water. On its upper side was a hole, but little larger than a man's body, and nearly on a level with the ground; and without this hole they first introduced himself, and after him the elder, who had the presumption to procure a chunk of wood as a barrier in case of attack.

The few minutes spent in this way would doubtless have been fatal to both, for the panther in a few mighty bounds that crushed through the thick cane like a tempest, reached the very spot where they had stood when they first heard the cry, but the *smell of the whiskey* caused her instinct to forsake the dainty meat before them. Never did a penetrated drunkard inhabit the finest of his dreams with the pleasure than this unsophisticated denizen of the forest. With long snuffs that the imprisoned pair could distinctly hear, he labaled the portion about and again, at times lapping the sides of the creek with his tongue, stopping to sniff at the longhole with a delight that would have gone to the heart of "Tam. O'Shanter and Master Johnny," had they been there to see.

This luxurious indulgence was continued for some minutes, but was broken off at last by a cry that came from another direction, and pointed out the position of a second panther, many months in the field. The cry was immediately answered, and in an instant the two were together carrying coughs and rubicon whiskey out.

From the evil effects which followed, it is probable that the two fellow lapped up a virgin intact change of the whiskey, as it flowed from the longhole of the keg, for they growled and cuffed each other until a considerable noise was heard among the dry leaves where they stood. Old friends, however, soon forget injuries, and so did they, for they lay down side by side to rest. And now all might have been quiet with the two prisoners, for the probability is that the two panthers would have presently departed and left them to prey for daylight, but for the unfortunate ingenuity of Bobby's, who, reflecting on the various catastrophes of the night, old and young, at the bottom of the keg, breaking the greatest, and confinement in the hollow, which abounded in fleas, as hog in bear grease, served the whole considerably and boiling over with anger, called out, *aunt nicodemus* about their patience.

The words were no sooner out than both the animals sprang to their feet with a deep growl, turned their noses fairly shooting fire, tossed the hapless men, and communicated with each other in the manner of the bears. Another pause sufficed for explanation. By that mysterious instinct which brutes possess, the tale was told, the plan of action laid, and they sprang simultaneously, one to the front and the other to the rear of the unfortunate pair.

Oh how Uncle Bobby wished for his rifle, as he saw the broad forehead of the beast within a few feet of him! The fairly reap as to what a chance he was missing for a "painter hide" and bounty, as he had killed the last one in Burlington. But now his love of gain changed into love of life, as the panther, with a mighty growl, seized the chunk which Bobby had placed in front of the hole, and commenced its destruction with its claws and teeth. The next efforts of the pair on the inside. For a while it seemed as if he would gain the prize, but the other panther, who stood watching and stood looking on, but did not know enough to help himself, and would have fallen a victim to Uncle Rot's for a moral certainty. As it was, the old man lost a coat sleeve, the boy a finger nail, both torn off by the big fore-claws of the animal.

Unappointed in his efforts, the panthers exchanged the exercise of pulling for that of scratching, and it not ever save a little dog with such a hole. Twenty years, indeed, would not a rat hole, you can form some idea of the way his cat claws tore the big fore-claws of the animal. Uncle Bobby clung to his chunk, however, and although both eyes, mouth and nose were filled with the sand earth that flew in chunks, he kept up a good heart, and was busily settling his self and his hopes to alarm his assailants. It is a fact that the human voice is generally dreaded by wild animals, but there is a sense in terror as well as power, for the panthers, intimidated by the tone and sense of the whiskey, the voice being human blood, seemed quite regardless of the old man's voice, and scratched away harder than ever. Not so the boy. After crying out a few times, he must have heard the earth away to the roots of the trees, for his voice ceased to make an impression, and again they paused in their exertions. A moment's consultation, and one of the panthers, with a loud growl, went to the creek, evidently in search of a hole by which to enjoy the coming struggle. This was the most trying moment of the whole night, for had such an entrance existed, the imprisoned man well knew that it was all up for him. The rat were not such a moment's purchase.

It is a peculiarity, however, of these frontier settlers, that they are not easily discouraged, and they cannot win the game, at least to play it out. The panther soon found the hole, and, with his death-bed, to order his brown-kinie, pushed and rifle to be laid at his side, that he might be ready to send death to the heart of the birds, and it was done. Uncle Bobby was dreamy some on Skunk River had been covered deep, so he resolutely drew his spring body, bound himself upright, and reached for the master's descent, determined to "die like a man." If he did not do it, it was no suspense and he was relieved of this difficulty, for the panther returned down upon the resident with a frantic concern of those who are about to scratching and then another pause.

The hope, as I observed, was a leaning one, the closer being towards the water. It was old Bobby's opinion that the panthers could not or not, they were pursuing just the right plan to make it fail. Crack went one of the upper limbs of the tree, and it broke off and with a loud splash into the creek. Crack went one of the large limbs, and it went to join its companion. It was worth a hunt of such, corroborates the assertion.

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The sound